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Steelcase, Inc. v. Harbin's, Inc.

Multi-Page TM

Michael G. Harbin - 1/27/05

1 Q Did it happen more than once?

2 A A couple of times it did. Exactly when, normally

- through the course of my divorce, as you know, and the
- information Hope has supplied you all. When I was not
- 5 making the income to satisfy -- excuse me. Strike
- that. When I was not able to provide in the way that 6
- 7 some think I should when the business was struggling
- after the events of 9-11, as I attested to earlier, so, 8
- 9 yes. But do these amounts -- were they significant?
- 10
- 11 me? Yes. Will I receive it? No. So --
- 12 Q You said that Harbin's rented space on Perry Street?
- 13 A I did not.
- 14 Q Because it owned that 1 percent of M&M Properties?
- 15 A Harbin's was a member of M&M Properties, LLC, and they
- 16 were a 1-percent member.
- 17 O Okay.
- 18 A Harbin's never did pay rent above the mortgage and the
- 19 interest payment to the bank.
- 20 Q Oh. So Harbin's paid the mortgage payment?
- 21 A Right.

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- 22 Q Okay. And that was sort of an informal rental
- 23 situation so that Harbin's could occupy that building?
- 24 A Yeah. The building was held by the corporation. We 24 Q Right.
- 25 pulled it out of the corporation and put it in this

LLC, but we never did formally juice up the rent to

- 2 what other owners were doing, what my former business
- 3 partner was doing. We never tacked on the extra 4 thousand dollars in rent.
  - We just strictly paid the mortgage and the interest, and then the K-1's flew through myself and my sister each year and we unfortunately had to pay the tax on that K-1, but we never even, quote, bonused that money out to cover the tax, even though we were told to do so by our accountants.

But we just -- I tried very hard to keep as much cash and capital in the corporation, because this 12 was a small company, as much as I could.

- 14 Q Did M&M Properties -- I apologize if you've already
- 15 answered this -- did they own any other properties?
- 16 A No.
- 17 Q So they just owned Harbin's space on South Perry
- Street? 18
- 19 A That's correct. And South Perry was an entire city
- 20 block. They owned that one parcel of property and
- 21 that's it, which the bank has subsequently foreclosed
- 22
- 23 Q So there was no formal rental agreement between M&M
- Properties and Harbin's? 24
- 25 A There might have been when it was first created, but Page 124

- there -- like an annual renewal that we pulled out or a
- 2 five-year lease or anything like that?
- 3 Q We are getting close to the end. I'm sure everybody's
- bellies are rumbling. Do you remember when Harbin's,
- Incorporated -- and I know we have talked about this,
- but I just want to get it --
- 7 A Okay.
- 8 Q -- firm so that I can --
- 9 A I understand.
- No. Is there an amount that the corporation still owes 10 Q -- understand fully. I'm trying to understand when
  - 11 Harbin's, Incorporated, stopped paying their debts to
  - 12 Steelcase particularly. Do you remember when that was?
  - 13 A I think it was right after Steelcase -- well, no. My
  - 14 understanding was just flat refused to send that stupid
  - 15 \$200 keyboard tray that held up a \$12,000 check payment
  - from the insurance company that I was going to 16
  - 17 overnight to Marvis to keep the flow of business in.
  - 18 2002, I think.
  - 19 O 2002?
  - 20 A They would have records of that, their last open P.O.
  - 21 date or ship order date when I was on super credit,
  - 22 double secret management control with Marvis and
  - 23 everybody else.

  - 25 A Which was unfortunate, but, you know, that happened.

- 1 Q And do you think in 2002 that the assets of Harbin's,
- 2 Incorporated, were greater than their liabilities and
- debts? 3
- 4 A Again, I'd have to look at a balance sheet. I was
- 5 going through that divorce and I think if he hadn't
- spoken to my ex-wife, I know other people have, and 6
- 7 trying to run that business, trying to maintain a
- 8 relationship with my children, and fighting an economy
- 9 that was in the tank for this industry was very
  - difficult.

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11 So if I could tell you off the top of my head, you know, I think you could tell by my testimony

- 13 today, I certainly would. I would have to look and
- 14 see. I don't have those records. I walked out of that 15
- building on April 30th with bad memories and nightmares 16 and I didn't look back, and so if there's -- if you
- 17 have a record somewhere that I can look at, I'll be
- 18 happy to and then I can tell you yes, they exceeded, or
- 19 no, they did not. But I don't know off the top of my 20
- 21 Q Are your records generally -- such records as this
- 22 (pointing to Exhibit 9), would that accurately reflect 23 -- that's a 2002 record. Would that accurately reflect
- 24 your assets and liabilities during 2002? I'm sorry. 1 "hat," that was Exhibit 9.

**DEFENDANT'S** 

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**EXHIBIT** 

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